

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 OES-07 CEQ-01  
OIC-02 /123 W  
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P 121840Z APR 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8293  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 05521

USUN NEW YORK FOR AMBASSADOR FISHER

IAEA VIENNA FOR MARGOT MAZEAU

E.O.11652:GDS  
TAGS: PARM, US, UR  
SUBJECT: US-USSR NEGOTIATIONS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW),  
ROUND SEVEN: FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING, APRIL 11, 1978

CW MESSAGE NO.41

1. SUMMARY: DURING PLENARY MEETING, APRIL 11, SOVIET DEL  
PRESENTED LATEST SOVIET POSITION ON ISSUES RELATING TO  
THE SCOPE OF PROHIBITION. SOVIET DEL ACCEPTED US  
PROPOSAL FOR A SUPER-TOXIC THRESHOLD. THEY ACCEPTED THE  
US PROPOSAL TO EXCLUDE LESS TOXIC RIOT CONTROL CHEMICALS  
FROM THE PROHIBITION BUT ASKED HOW US POLICY ON USE OF  
SUCH IRRITANTS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE CONTEXT OF  
A CW CONVENTION SOTHAT ALL STATES PARTIES WOULD HAVE  
EQUAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION. SOVIET  
DEL ALSO AGREED WITH US THAT STATES SHOULD DECLARE THE  
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TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF CHEMICALS USED FOR DOMESTIC LAW  
ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES. SOVIET DEL AGREED TO THE US  
PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING A CEILING FOR TOXIC CHEMICALS  
PERMITTED FOR NON-HOSTILE MILITARY PURPOSES (E.G., TROOP  
TRAINING IN PROTECTIVE MEASURES) AND ASKED FOR US VIEWS  
ON HOW MAXIMUM PERMITTED QUANTITIES WOULD BE DETERMINED.  
SOVIET DEL QUESTIONED APPROPRIATENESS OF THE US PROPOSAL

TO REVIEW CONTINUED USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS IN TROOP TRAINING AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE, WITHOUT, HOWEVER, EXPLICITLY REJECTING THAT PROPOSAL. IT ALSO ACCUSED THE US OF BELITTling THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION AND INTERFERING IN ACTIVITIES UNRELATED TO THE PURPOSES OF A CW CONVENTION BY PROPOSING PROHIBITION OF SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS DESIGNED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES NOT RELATED TO CHEMICAL WARFARE. US DEL DEFERRED COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SOVIET PRESENTATION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING OF ROUND SEVEN WAS HELD APRIL 11 AT THE SOVIET MISSION. AMB LIKHACHEV (HEAD OF SOVIET DEL) MADE A STATEMENT PRESENTING THE LATEST SOVIET POSITION ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE SCOPE OF THE PROHIBITION. SALIENT POINTS OF THE SOVIET STATEMENT ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

A. TOXICITY CRITERIA -- SOVIETS ACCEPTED THE US PROPOSAL FOR A SUPER-TOXIC THRESHOLD. IN THIS CONNECTION, THEY PROPOSED THAT REFERENCE TO THE LETHAL THRESHOLD, NOW SPECIFIED IN SOVIET DRAFT ARTICLE I, BE DELETED AND THAT THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION BE THE ONLY CRITERION SPECIFIED IN THE TREATY TEXT. THE LETHAL AND SUPER-TOXIC THRESHOLDS WOULD BE CONTAINED IN AN ANNEX TO THE CONVENTION AND WOULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR A DIFFERENTIATED APPROACH TO THE PROHIBITION OR LIMITATION OF ACTIVITIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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AS WELL AS TO VERIFICATION.

B. RIOT CONTROL CHEMICALS (RCCS) -- SOVIET DEL AGREED TO US PROPOSAL THAT IRRITANTS WITH A MEDIAN LETHAL DOSE EXCEEDING LTC 50 20,000 MG-MIN/M3 WOULD NOT BE COVERED BY THE CONVENTION, WHILE ALL OTHERS WOULD BE. SOVIET DEL ALSO AGREED THAT STATES SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO DECLARE PERIODICALLY THE TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF CHEMICALS USED FOR RIOT CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES. NOTING THAT THE US INTENDS TO USE LOW TOXICITY IRRITANTS ONLY IN DEFENSIVE MILITARY MODES TO SAVE LIVES. SOVIETS SAID THEY ASSUMED US FAVORS COMPLETE PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF IRRITANTS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR TOXICITY LEVELS, FOR HOSTILE MILITARY PURPOSES. SOVIETS ALSO ASKED FOR US VIEWS ON HOW THE SITUATION RESULTING FROM THE US RESERVATIONS RELATING TO THE GENEVA PROTOCOL SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CW CONVENTION, IN PARTICULAR FROM THE STANDPOINT OF EQUAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF STATE PARTIES.

C. CEILING FOR CHEMICALS PERMITTED FOR NON-HOSTILE MILITARY PURPOSES -- SOVIET DEL AGREED TO THE US PROPOSAL

TO ESTABLISH A CEILING FOR PRODUCTION AND RETENTION OF TOXIC CHEMICALS WHICH WOULD BE PERMITTED FOR NON-HOSTILE MILITARY PURPOSES. STATES WOULD DETERMINE FOR THEMSELVES AND DECLARE THE TYPES AND QUANTITIES UP TO THE CEILING OF CHEMICALS THEY REQUIRED FOR NON-HOSTILE MILITARY PURPOSES. HOWEVER, NO STATE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO PRODUCE AND STOCKPILE SUCH CHEMICALS BEYOND ITS LEGITIMATE REQUIREMENTS. LIKHACHEV ALSO REQUESTED US VIEWS ON HOW THE MAXIMUM PERMITTED QUANTITIES OF SUCH CHEMICALS WOULD BE DETERMINED IN RELATION TO THE NEEDS OF THE US AND THE USSR, AS WELL AS OF OTHER POTENTIAL PARTIES TO THE

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P 121840Z APR 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8294

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 05521

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CONVENTION. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT FINAL AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE DEVELOPED AT SUBSEQUENT STAGES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

D. SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS -- SOVIET DEL QUESTIONED THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE US PROPOSAL TO DECIDE, AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE, WHETHER CONTINUED USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS IN TROOP TRAINING SHOULD BE PERMITTED, SAYING THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ANTICIPATE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF CHEMICAL SIMULANTS WHICH MIGHT BE SUBSTITUTED FOR TOXIC CHEMICALS IN FIELD EXERCISES. LIKHACHEV ALSO ACCUSED THE US OF BELITTling

THE ROLE OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION AND ATTEMPTING TO INTERFERE IN ACTIVITIES NOT RELATED TO THE PURPOSES OF A CW CONVENTION BY PROPOSING TO PROHIBIT ANY SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICAL DESIGNED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES NOT RELATED TO CHEMICAL WARFARE.

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3. IN CONCLUSION, LIKHATCHEV NOTED THE RAPID APPROACH OF THE SSOD AND THE NEED FOR PROGRESS BY THE BEGINNING OF THE SSOD IN ELABORATING A JOINT INITIATIVE ON CW. HE SAID THE CURRENT TASK OF THE TWO SIDES WAS TO REACH AS WIDE AS POSSIBLE AGREEMENT ON THE PRINCIPAL, FUNDAMENTAL PROVISIONS OF A FUTURE CONVENTION ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS SO AS TO SPEED UP THE PREPARATION OF THE JOINT INITIATIVE AND BE ABLE TO INFORM THE CCD AND THE SSOD OF THE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE ALLEGED THAT THE US DEL WAS SHOWING A TENDENCY TO ENGAGE IN DETAILED DEVELOPMENT OF SECONDARY ISSUES, PREPARATION OF VARIOUS ANNEXES, ETC., WHICH COULD DIVERT THE NEGOTIATIONS FROM THEIR MAIN TASK AT THIS STAGE.

4. ACTING HEAD OF US DEL (AKALOVSKY) STRESSED THAT THE US FULLY SHARED THE SOVIET DESIRE FOR PROGRESS ON THE JOINT INITIATIVE BY THE BEGINNING OF THE SSOD. WHILE THE US PERCEPTION OF WHAT IS AN IMPORTANT OR LESS IMPORTANT ISSUE MAY NOT ALWAYS COINCIDE WITH THAT OF THE USSR, THAT WAS NO REASON TO QUESTION US READINESS TO EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO ACHIEVE SUCH PROGRESS. AS TO THE SUBSTANTIVE PART OF THE SOVIET STATEMENT, AKALOVSKY NOTED THAT IT CONTAINED SOME POSITIVE ELEMENTS BUT RESERVED FURTHER COMMENT UNTIL US DEL HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IT CAREFULLY.

5. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE DRAFTING GROUP WOULD MEET THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 13. THE NEXT PLENARY MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 18, WITH SOVIET DEL INDICATING THAT THEY WOULD SPEAK ON VERIFICATION AT THAT TIME. VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

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MESSAGE NO.41  
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